

Applicant: E. Bayne Carew
Serial No.: 09/931,510
Amendment dated: January 21, 2004
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IN THE CLAIMS:

1-16 (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) A filter assembly for filtering a fluid, said assembly comprising:

a plurality of wave coils arranged axially to define a filter element having first and second ends and an inner cavity;

a support engaging one of said first and second ends for supporting said wave coils and for diverting the fluid inside or outside said inner cavity of said filter element;

each of said wave coils including at least one crest and at least one trough with said at least one crest of one wave coil engaging said at least one trough of an adjacent wave coil to define at least one filtration aperture between each crest and each trough of adjacent wave coils for filtering the fluid diverted by said support;

a base plate engaging one of said first and second ends of said filter element; and

a flange member engaging the other of said first and second ends relative to said base plate, said flange member being adjustably engaged relative to said base plate for modifying a length L, extending between said first and second ends of said filter element, to reduce and expand said at least one filtration aperture;

wherein said flange member comprises a flange collar and a yoke extending from said collar toward said base plate thereby defining a shoulder portion of said flange member between said flange collar and said yoke, said shoulder portion of said flange member supporting the other of said first and second ends of said filter element relative to said base plate.

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18. (Original) A filter assembly as set forth in claim 17 wherein said yoke is integrally molded with said flange collar.

19. (Original) A filter assembly as set forth in claim 17 wherein said yoke of said flange member is at least partially disposed in said inner cavity of said filter element to keep said flange member in engagement with the other of said first and second ends of said filter element relative to said base plate.

20. (Original) A filter assembly as set forth in claim 17 wherein said adjustment mechanism further comprises at least one pilot spring supported on said yoke of said flange member for biasing said flange member to decrease said length L to reduce said at least one filtration aperture and for biasing said flange member to increase said length L to expand said at least one filtration aperture.

21. (Original) A filter assembly as set forth in claim 20 wherein said pilot spring is further defined as a compression spring.

22. (Original) A filter assembly as set forth in claim 20 wherein said yoke of said flange member comprises a base segment defining an opening and said pilot spring is supported on said base segment of said yoke about said opening.

23. (Original) A filter assembly as set forth in claim 22 wherein said adjustment mechanism further comprises an adjustment shaft extending from said base plate through said opening and said pilot spring to engage said flange member such that said flange member is adjustable relative to said base plate for modifying said length L of said filter element.

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24. (Original) A filter assembly as set forth in claim 23 wherein said adjustment mechanism further comprises an adjustable lock disposed on said adjustment shaft adjacent said pilot spring and opposite said base segment of said flange member, said adjustable lock causing said spring to bias said flange member for reducing and expanding said at least one filtration aperture.

25-84 (Canceled).